6. *Role of Voluntary Coordinating Agencies :*

A time period of 60 days instead of 30 days shall be given to V.C.A. for putting their best efforts to place the child within the country and in case they fail they shall issue necessary clearance certificate to the placement agencies within a maximum period of 60 days.

7. *Role of Scrutinising Agencies :*

The Court may appoint any agency, being a body of experts in the field of child care and welfare not in itself involved in any manner in the placement of children in adoption as a scrutinising agency. The Court shall have the power to appoint any other scrutinising agency recognised by CARA depending upon the situation.

8. *Miscellaneous :*

It will be desirable for the Government of India to enter into bilateral agreement with countries which are receiving children from India for the purpose of adoption and such bilateral agreements should provide for full coordination between the appropriate authorities of India and the receiving State and also for protection and safeguarding of the Welfare of the children taken for adoption in the receiving State.

Child rape in the country

705. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is noticeable increase in the cases of child rape in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such cases take a long time in awarding punishment to the culprits;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some organisation of the country have demanded stringent and prompt actions against the culprits as well as against officers who try to hush up or delay such cases ;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring a fresh bill conferring detriment punishment to those found guilty; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Suggestions for amendment in the laws, including stricter punishments for offences, have been made from time to time at different forums. The National Commission for Women (NCW) of Department of Women and Child Development is charged with the responsibility under the NCW Act, 1990 to review, from time to time, the adequacy of existing laws relating to women and to recommend amendments. The NCW had organised a Seminar on Child Rape in October, 1992. The Members of the NCW, representatives from voluntary organisations, eminent lawyers and activists had participated in the Workshop. The report of the Seminar is being further processed by NCW/Department of WCD of the Ministry of HRD.

Establishment of Minorities Financial Development Corporation

707. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1805 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 1994 and state the progress made so far with regard to establishement of National Minorities Financial Development Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : In the address of the President to the Parliament on 21-2-94

it has been indicated that the propose National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation would be made operational during 1994-95. The modalities are being worked out.

15-Point Programme for Minorities

708. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is committed to revise the existing 15 Point Programme of the Prime Minister for Minorities;

(b) if so, by when the revised fifteen point programme will be issued, and

(c) whether Government propose to consider making the implementation of the programme mandatory on par with 20 point programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) to (c) The recasting and updating of 15 Point Programme for Minorities is under consideration.

The implementation of Programme has already been accepted by Central and State Governments.

Schools for Students

709. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of schools set up under a Central scheme to provide educational facilities to ST students so far in tribal sub plan area;

(b) the number of ST students who are enrolled in these schools, Statewise figures; and

(c) the amount of Central assistance sanctioned under the scheme to the States so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) Central assistance has been given for 166 ashram schools under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of ashram schools for ST students in Tribal Sub Plan area since its inception in 1990-91.

(b) Information is being collected from the States and the same, on receipt, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Total Central assistance of Rs. 908.33 lakhs has been given under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to the States so far.

Projects constructed under integrated Tribal Development Projects

710. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the irrigation projects, Roads and other projects constructed under Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Orissa during last five years;

(b) how many of those projects have been completed so far and likely to be completed by the end of the Eighth Plan ;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the execution of those projects; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Orissa and the same, on its receipt, will be placed on the Table of the House.